1 ¼ Miles

This year's Kentucky Derby will mark the 127th consecutive year that the race has been carded at the classic distance of 1 ¼ miles.

For its first 21 runnings from 1875-95, the race was contested over 1 ½ miles. The distance was changed to 1 ¼ miles in 1896.

The 1 ¼-mile distance is the equivalent to 2,011.68 meters, 2,200 yards, 6,600 feet or 79,200 inches.

The length of the stretch from the head of the lane to the finish line is 1,234.5 feet.

The legendary late *Los Angeles Times* columnist Jim Murray once penned: "The homestretch is 1,234 feet of heartbreak. Trainers swear it's uphill."